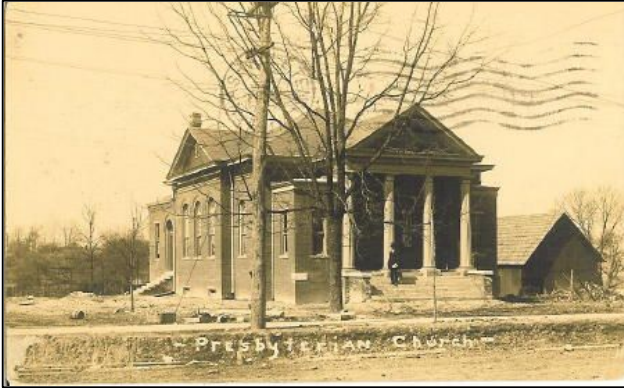


## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARKS 100<sup>TH</sup>

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN  
12 October 2009, front page & pg. A-2

**COOKEVILLE** – So much can happen in 100 years.

Yesterday, to celebrate its rich history, the in Cookeville kicked off a centennial celebration, one complete with church services, lunch and special guests.



The vent concluded with the dedication of a time capsule, which, when buried, will contain several mementos, documenting the church's history – the day's bulletin, a group photo of the congregation and an outline of the church's past.

In 1909, the church secured property at 20 N. Dixie Ave., the same year that the state Supreme Court declared that the union of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America was unconstitutional.



Though both denominations shared the same sanctuary on alternate Sundays, the anti-unionists were emboldened by the Landrith v. Hudgins decision and demanded that the Presbyterians surrender the property, according

to a excerpt published in the church's September bulletin.

(Pictured: The congregation at First Presbyterian Church, located at 20 N. Dixie Ave in Cookeville, poses for a picture Sunday. The photo will be included in a time capsule the church is putting together to celebrate its 100-year history. Photo by: Liz Engel, Herald-Citizen Staff.

They did so in October, and in November they purchased from Jere Whitson the property where First Presbyterian Church now sits. A cornerstone was dedicated in 1910.

Pastor Pat Handlson said the celebration will continue through the rest of the year.

**THE HISTORY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COOKEVILLE, TN**

By Michael E. Birdwell, Ph.D.

\*See

<http://www.firstprescookeville.org/Publications/HistoryofCkvlFPC/HistoryofCkvlPCUSA.html>

\*Read more about the churches of Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>